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THE United States is bound to be neutral in regard to the European war, but we think the men of the United States may well take pride in their country as they watch the sinister spectacle beyond the sea.

Great Britain affects to deplore the war and insists that she was forced into it by Germany's invasion of Belgium, which is true, for with Belgium in German hands England would not for a moment be safe.

But Germany scoffingly retorts: "How did England become possessed of India and Egypt, or what grievance caused France to sieze Cochin China and Madagascar, or what has restrained Russia in her conquests, or why did Russia and England sieze and partition Persia?"

When the all ask why the United States made war on Spain and slezed Cuba and the Philippines, they are stopped at the very threshold, for the war was made in mercy to stop hideous cruelties and robberles; Cuba was surrendered back to her own people after the island had been disenfected, order restored, law established and schools inaugurated and we are impatiently waiting for the people of the Philippines to gain the wisdom to govern themselves.

Our free institutions are not yet perfect because from the first, society has been in a formation state; into our midst is annually poured a flood of foreigners many of whom have not yet learned to distinguish between liberty under the law and rude license; but these defects are being righted. Some men may be politically free but are still enslaved by the ignorance, prejudices, unfair longing and the sinister and dark passions in their own souls, and too many of these seek our shores, but the light of our flag is advancing, the hearts of our people are broader, fairer, truer than can be found anywhere else in this old world. It is a comfort to believe that after a while ours will become the arbiter among nations.

Napo'eon said: "Men are nothing, a man is everything." That was true in carrying out his imperial ideas, it is often still true in a crisis, but when under the light of free institutions all men shall be advanced until all shall feel a direct personal interest in the nation's welfare; then men will be everything and the brightest will be but agents to carry out the will of the whole. Our country is growing toward that consummation faster than any other and the dawn of a new day for mankind is already sending up its first beams of light.

The Canal

NONE of us quite yet realizes what the Panama canal means. Even now over 10,000 tons of freight are daily passing through it. In the past three months it has hauled nearly as much freight as the Panama railroad did during the past two years.

By the way, the government while making things as uncomfortable as possible for our struggling railroads, permits the Panama road, which it owns, to charge any fares and freights that it pleases to, with the result that the charges are about 60 per cent higher on the governmentowned road than are permitted on our home railways. But the business of the canal is the wonderful thing. What will it be when the trade of the world again assumes normal conditions. and the great commercial nations resume their competition?

"I've got something I want to tell you. You haven't heard about the shocking Billenger scandal, have you?" "Yes. I've heard about it at least four times. You're late," "That's funny. It was to'd at the club for the first time, and everybody there promised not to repeat it."-Topeka



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